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LUZAC'S ORIENTAL LIST and BOOK REVIEW.

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REVIEWS, NOTES, NEWS.

"**Saiyedna Hazrat Ghaus-ul-Azam.**" By **Saiyed Abdus Salik**, retired district magistrate and collector. This little book, written by a devout follower of the Kadiri sect in India, is mainly a biography of the renowned Sufi teacher, 'Abd al-Kādir, Jīlānī. It also contains an account of his literary works, and there are chapters on the spread of his doctrines in Yemen and Syria, Egypt and Africa and India, especially Bengal; four Bengali members of the order being given separate treatment.

"**English Records of Maratha History.**" Poona Residency Correspondence. Volume 6. Poona Affairs, 1797-1801. (Palmer's Embassy.) Edited by **G. S. Sardesai.** The government of Bombay, and students of Indian history generally, are greatly indebted to Rao Bahadur G. S. Sardesai and to Sir Jadunath Sarkar, the honorary editors of these most important records. Their only return for labours entailing much exertion and considerable personal expense will be the satisfaction of having carried out an admirable task so ably and in such an interesting manner.

The period covered in this volume is a momentous one, covering as it does the early years of Lord Mornington's (Wellesley's) governor-generalship, and the negotiations between the British and the Marathas, leading inevitably to Bajirao's surrendering his independence. Much more than this main theme is incidentally included; we hear a good deal of the war with Tipu, of Nana Fadnis and his fate, of Bajirao's administrative troubles, and many other matters. No less interesting is it to follow the methods and study the characters of the British officials involved in the correspondence: Wellesley, Colonel William Palmer, Ulthoff, Kirkpatrick, and other able men are all clearly differentiated—Palmer, incidentally, survives a scrutiny with peculiar credit, a scrupulous, honourable man, who did all that he could to save the Marathas from themselves. Many glimpses again are afforded of the Peshwa's court and of the personalities of many of the Maratha notables of the time.

The correspondence is very voluminous, but very rewarding to the modern student. As he goes through these pages, the editors truly say, he is irresistibly overcome by a sense of the dark clouds gathering over the Maratha nation's horizon with the certainty of fate in a Greek tragedy—clouds which were to burst in the thunderclap of Assaye and Argaum, Laswari and Dig. These records give the reason why.

"**Manuel de Géographie Syrie, Liban et Proche-Orient,**" par **L. Dubertret** et **J. Weulersse.** Le manuel de Géographie dont la première partie vient de paraître apporte quelque chose de nouveau. Pour la première fois, en effet, les pays du Proche Orient—particulièrement "la Syrie et le Liban (qui) se présentent comme des individualités géographiques très fortes"—sont traités comme des entités vivantes qu'il s'agit non pas seulement de décrire, mais surtout d'expliquer. La Géographie physique y tient donc une place de choix: c'est avant tout par le sol qui les porte et le ciel sous lequel ils vivent que peuvent s'expliquer le sort des hommes et les destins des civilisations. Relief, climat, régime des eaux sont analysés tour à tour, mais pour en montrer les conséquences sur la vie humaine et les formes prodigieusement diverses qu'elle revêt dans le Proche Orient.

Autre originalité: cet ouvrage a été rédigé, comme le remarque Monsieur Bounoure, Conseiller pour l'Instruction Publique au Haut Commissariat, qui a bien voulu préfacer le livre, pour que les écoliers libanais et syriens, connaissant mieux la figure de leur terre, se mettent à l'aimer d'une amour profonde et sincère. Car une connaissance plus intime des "réalités permanentes" et des "rapports complexes qu'entretiennent la terre et les hommes" est "une des bases indispensables de tout enseignement national."

Mais de plus, tous les Français qui s'intéressent au Levant, trouveront dans ce livre une mise au point des diverses recherches scientifiques qui ont rénové, ces dernières années, notre connaissance de ces régions où naquit notre civilisation; ils y trouveront aussi un tableau vivant des mouvements de ce qui fut longtemps pour nous l'immobile Orient.

La Première Partie, actuellement parue, porte sur l'ensemble du Proche Orient: elle comprend sept chapitres de généralités physiques—relief et structure, climat, régime des eaux, flore et faune—quatre autres de généralités sur la vie humaine et l'évolution historique jusqu'à la formation des cadres politiques actuels—et quatre enfin sur les divers pays voisins, en particulier sur l'Arabie, l'Irak et la Palestine. La Deuxième Partie, qui doit être consacrée à l'étude détaillée de la Syrie et du Liban, paraîtra prochainement.

Il faut noter enfin que l'illustration a été particulièrement soignée: 182 figures et photos éclairent le texte, et les croquis, spécialement dessinés pour l'ouvrage, permettent de le lire sans avoir recours à d'autres cartes ou atlas.

"**The Origins of Ismā'īlism,**" By **Bernard Lewis**, Ph.D. In this concise and fully documented study we are given an excellent account of the strange movement, Ismā'īlī, or Bāṭinī, to mention two of its chief names, a movement at once religious, philosophic, social and political, which shook mediaeval Islam to the core, and at its peak of success actually was able to set up an anti-Caliphate which threatened the orthodox power centred in Baghdad. The author has been faced with many baffling problems, due partly to the syncretism and esoterism of the Ismaili system and partly to the fact that the available sources, at least for its early stages, are nearly all biassed records left by bitter opponents of the movement. To the solution of these problems he has brought wide knowledge and sane judgment. With the discovery of new documents, the doctrinal and literary sides of Ismailism have of late received the careful attention of scholars, but the historical side remained imperfectly explored. Dr. Lewis in this work sheds much new light on the subject and has earned the gratitude of students of Islamic history for his valuable historical survey.

"**The Message of Islam.**" By **A. Yusuf Ali, C.B.E.** "**Wisdom of the East Series.** Here we have the work of a devout Muslim, whose eager endeavour, despite the present world's cruel discord, is to set forward the kingdom of human brotherhood. It was this urge which compelled him recently to publish a complete translation of the Koran, with text and full commentary, together with a rhythmic running commentary summarising the main teaching of the sacred book. The rhythmic commentary is here republished as a separate work, rightly described by the author as a résumé of the teaching of the Koran, with special reference to the spiritual and moral struggles of the human soul. In the atmosphere of this book, happily far removed from the squalor of doctrinal disputation, strangers to Islam may gain an insight into the spirit of that faith which at the present day has no interpreter more charitable and sincere than Mr. Yusuf Ali.

"**Bibliography of Moslem Numismatics, India excepted.**" By **L. A. Mayer.** ("**Oriental Translation Fund,**" Vol. 35). London, 1939. Arranged alphabetically under authors, this most useful compilation covers the whole field up to the end of the year 1934. Since Moslem numismatics in India constitutes a vast and almost independent section of the study of Oriental coins, it has not been included here. Under each author the works are arranged according to date. A perusal of its pages leaves the imprssion that probably nothing of much importance has escaped the diligent researches of Mr. Mayer who, with this catalogue, has placed in the hands of his fellow numismatists an instrument which cannot fail to lighten much of their labour.

"**In the Steps of Lawrence of Arabia.**" By **Douglas Glen.** This is the history of a motor tour across Sinai, through Trans-Jordan, to Damascus, following the route of Lawrence's memorable campaign, and the various episodes of the Arab Revolt are described by the author as he passes the points at which they took place. The author is a devoted admirer of Lawrence's power as a military leader and of his almost superhuman endurance in forced marches and long treks on camel-back. His enthusiasm for the brilliant contribution by the Arabs to our success in the Near East seems to lead him, as it has done many others, to forget the solid achievement of those British and Dominion troops who smashed their way from Egypt up through Palestine and beyond. But apart from this the story is well set forth and a good description of the country traversed is further enhanced by many fine photographs.

Abi Bakr, "**Raghensis (Razis) Opera Philosophica,**" collegit et edidit **P. Kraus.** Pt. 1, Cairo, 1939. This volume, which forms fasc. 22 of the "Publications of Fouad I University" (Faculty of Letters) constitutes a service of high importance to the study of Arabic philosophy. It comprises eleven short texts dealing chiefly with questions of metaphysics by the great Moslem physician and philosopher, Muḥammad ibn Zakarīyā al-Rāzī (d. 923 A.D.) who as an original thinker as well as transmitter of Hellenistic learning, profoundly influenced the mental development not only of the Islamic world but of mediaeval Europe where much of his work was current in Latin translations. The texts are edited either from manuscripts preserved complete in various libraries or from extracts made by early writers from works of al-Rāzī which no longer survive. The second volume, which the editor hopes shortly to publish, will contain the remainder of al-Rāzī's philosophical treatises, a complete account of his life and writings and a vocabulary of the technical terms occuring in his works. Careful and accurate study are in evidence throughout this scholarly production, and the excellence of the typography leaves nothing to be desired.

"**A Cavalier in China.**" By Col. **A. W. S. Wingate.** It is a pity that the author of this pleasantly written book did not live to see it published. It tells the story of a British officer of Indian cavalry the current of whose life was changed by a paragraph in "The Pioneer" some forty-three years ago. He seized the opportunity, then open to military officers, of going to China to learn the language, and afterwards wrote this account of his journey thither, his travels in different parts of the country, and finally the long overland expedition which brought him back from Shanghai to Bhamo. This was no mean feat in the days before motor transport had been thought of, and when the only railway in China was one from Tientsin to Peking. The whole narrative, couched in a simple, breezy style, covers somewhat less than two years, which were packed with incidents and adventures enough to fill a whole lifetime. Colonel Wingate evidently kept his eyes and ears open, for he has always something interesting or amusing to say about his varied experiences and the numerous notabilities with whom he came into contact, from Dr. Morrison and Sir Robert Hart to the Viceroys Chang Chih-tung, Yuan Shih-k'ai and Li Hung-chang. He spent a considerable time at Peking, and was present at two Imperial audiences. The journey to the West was begun just at the time when the reformer K'ang Yu-wei was fleeing for his life, and in the Shanghai river our author's steamer was boarded and searched amid much excitement. Wingate then sailed up the Yangtse and crossed the provinces of Kweichow and Yunnan, traversing at least two long stretches where no European had previously set foot. It is a remarkable record of enterprise and endurance. The book is illustrated with the author's own photographs.

"**Warning Lights of Asia**" is an account of Japan and China written by the well-known journalist **Gerald Samson** after spending more than five years in the Far East. Though he arrived on the scene as a free-lance writer, he acted at various times as special correspondent for Reuters, United Press, and Associated Press of America. In spite of irksome restrictions and sharp police surveillance, he succeeded in his object of travelling through Japan from end to end and gathering all sorts of information. This was a couple of years before hostilities against China had begun; but he was regarded with ever-increasing suspicion and finally arrested under martial law during the national crisis of 1936, when a section of the army rose against the government and assassinated several leading statesmen. Only after seventeen days' imprisonment under shockingly barbarous conditions was he released and expelled from the country. And so to China, where he saw something of the civil war that was still unhappily raging. After visits to Hunan, Kwangtung, and the northern provinces, he daringly decided to put his head into the lion's mouth once more by penetrating into the puppet state of Manchukuo. Here he travelled extensively by rail and air, but in consequence of an interview published in a Harbin newspaper he was arrested as a dangerous British spy and subjected to a long "third degree" examination, resulting in deportation. Meanwhile war had broken out, and on returning to Shanghai he found a large portion of the town reduced to "a charred shambles." After further adventures in the West and an interview with the Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek himself, he left China by the newly completed highway to Burma. This is a most informative and interesting book, illustrated by over thirty photographs. Not the least valuable feature is the excursus which follows each of the seventeen chapters, on problems and questions of

the day. No. 16, entitled "Odds on China," gives reasons for thinking that she may yet emerge victorious from the struggle which was so wantonly forced upon her.

"**Japan Surveys the War.**" It is always useful to know what other countries are thinking; and this pamphlet, edited by members of the **Tokyo Press Club**, contains a good selection of the opinions of the Japanese press on a number of topics connected with the European War. First comes Japan's own attitude to current events and the war as it effects her policy. A translation of articles that have appeared in various papers is accompanied by reasoned editorial comment. Afterwards other subjects are dealt with in like manner, notably Japanese views on the Chungking Government, Britain and France, the Soviet Union, Hitler and Nazism, India and the Netherlands Indies. The opinions of these Japanese journalists may or may not conform with actuality; they are admittedly diverse; but taken as a whole they do present an authoritative exposé of the world situation as seen through Japanese eyes. It is, of course, "Dai Nipponism" of the crudest variety when the "Tokyo Asahi" tells its readers, just after the outbreak of war, that "unlike the European and American States, Japan bases her policy upon the spirit of moral principle but not on utilitarianism." And sceptics may be excused a smile when they hear, on the authority of the "Chugai Shogyo," that "Japan has no intention whatever of robbing China of her independence and freedom." But most of the articles, even if unfriendly to the Allies, are certainly revealing and deserve careful study.

"**Changing India.**" Edited by **Raja Rao** and **Iqbal Singh.** The editors' aim in this selection of prose passages by Indian writers is "to give a comprehensive idea of the evolution of Indian thought in social, political and philosophical spheres during the past hundred years.' They consider that this evolution, of which the general course has been determined by contact with the Western world, shows three distinct phases. First came uncritical admiration of Western civilization; then came the reaction; and last, a period of non-balanced appreciation.

Not all the passages selected fall exactly into this scheme, but the classification is, broadly speaking, a fair one. Probably however the book will be chiefly valued by some of its readers from its interest in showing how extremely well Indians have been expressing themselves in English for the last hundred years. Though this is of course fairly well known, the phenomenon is none the less remarkable, and is probably unparalleled. It signifies a common basis of ideas, a fundamental stock of cultural concepts which both races share and respect.

The writers are nearly all Hindus, only two out of the nineteen represented being Mohammedans. Their topics are many, religious and cultural matters, Indian national aspirations, the relations of East and West, travel, history and philosophy. In general they have a tendency to a rather gentle brooding; a tendency which, however, at least one writer, Jawahirlal Nehru, perceives and reprobates.

Most of the great names of India's writers from Raja Rammohan Roy onward are represented here; Tagore, Gokhale, Gandhi, Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, all contributing to a delectable feast.

"Midrash Haggadol on the Pentateuch." Numbers. Edited by **S. Fisch.** In these days, when the lamps of scholarship are fast going out all over Europe, it is a pleasure to welcome so scholarly a production, which stands to the credit of an English University. Dr. Fisch gives us here his first instalment of his edition of the Book of Numbers from the Midhrāsh Hag-Gādhōl. He has made an excellent job of it. It may be remembered that the late Dr. Solomon Schechter edited the Book of Genesis from this extensive compilation. He, however, concentrated mainly on the text, and the promised long and detailed introduction never materialised. In contrast, Dr. Fisch provides his edition with an excellent introduction, where he treats with ability and fulness the vexed question of authorship and the many other problems posed by this Midhrāsh. His edition is everywhere distinguished by careful and conscientious scholarship. Occasionally the editor betrays a slight lack of *expertise* is handling matters of bibliography. To talk of "a Mr. Shapira of Jerusalem," for example, is as incongruous as for an historian of English literature to refer to "a Mr. Jacob Tonson, a bookseller." Again, a little more research would have enabled Dr. Fisch to identify "the scholar Adler" with the famous Hebrew bibliophile, Mr. E. N. Adler, the bulk of whose Hebrew library was sold to the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York. Such blemishes are, however, of slight account, and in no way derogate from the solid merits of this edition.

When it comes to the question of the authorship of this Midhrashic anthology serious difficulties arise. The compilation has been variously attributed (in the main) to Abraham Maimūnī and David al-'Adnī. Dr. Fisch tries to cut the Gordian Knot by a solution of almost Solomic wisdom. He assigns the original work (which Dr. Fisch claims to have been compiled in Arabic) to Abraham Maimūnī and the Hebrew translation to David al-'Adnī. It is a solution superficially brilliant but fundamentally unsound. In the first place we have no factual evidence that there ever existed an Arabic version of this Midhrāsh. Nor have we any substantial evidence that Abraham Maimūnī ever compiled such a work. Moreover, the whole trend of Maimūnī's mind was legalistic and philosophical, like that of his famous father, and not Midhrashic.

Other arguments against this solution present themselves. If the work were really written in Arabic, how is it that the translation corresponds practically *verbatim* with the original texts from which the work is compiled? Again, are the proems to the pericopes of the Pentateuch, written in such a pure and limpid Hebrew rhymed prose, a mere translation?

It is clear that Dr. Fisch has not thought out all the implications of his thesis. It will require a far more fundamental attack upon this problem to demolish the claims of David al-'Adnī, to whom Yemenite tradition preponderantly assigns the authorship of this compilation.

However, we congratulate Dr. Fisch upon a worthy piece of research, and we look forward eagerly to the completion of his project. J. L.

"Bible Documents' Notes I-V." By **D. S. Mahbub.** The important discoveries unearthed by the late Mr. J. L. Starkey and his colleagues at Tell Duweir in South Palestine are the subject of this pamphlet. The notes are restricted to the bowl and seal inscriptions brought to light by the Wellcome expedition. Mr. Mahbub has performed a useful service in stimulating scholarly interest in, and discussion of these objects, but the value of his notes is somewhat abridged by a stilted style, which often tends to obscure rather than illuminate the subjects treated. Mr. Mahbub has found a fruitful

source of investigation, but he should learn to cultivate a simple manner of writing. He should cut up his sentences more and avoid overloading them with qualifications. His main points are often lost in a cloud of ill-negotiated subordinate clauses, which confuse as well as exasperate the reader. The author would do well not to hedge his remarks with too many concessions to the susceptibilities of other Semitic scholars, by means of which much of the force of his criticism is sadly blunted. Nevertheless, we wish the author of this pamphlet well and hope he will continue his present line of research, of which this pamphlet, it is to be hoped, is but a forerunner.

"**Render unto Caesar ...**" By **Herbert Loewe**. The learned Reader in Rabbinics at Cambridge University discourses with his customary erudition upon one of the most famous of Christ's sayings. From his well-equipped armoury of Rabbinic lore he deals with the many problems raised by this "parable" from various tangents. Mr. Loewe's thesis is briefly that the attitude adopted by Christ as reflected in this aphorism is fundamentally in agreement with Rabbinic tradition. If a criticism may be ventured it is that the author, while ranging over many aspects of the saying, does not stress sufficiently the circumstances attending this utterance of Christ's. Jesus had to be careful not to incriminate himself; at the same time he would say nothing that savoured of insincerity. Christ's general attitude to the Government may well have coincided with the famous Rabbinical maxim enshrined in the Mishnaic tractate Ābhōth (i, 10), "Love labour, hate lordship, and do not associate with the ruling power,"—an illuminating sentence which is curiously absent from Mr. Loewe's book. Christ very brilliantly turned the tables upon those who wanted to evade their legal obligations under the mask of an ardent patriotism. It was such an exploitation of politics for selfish ends that earned Christ's severe condemnation, a condemnation which most of the Rabbis would have supported.

We could have wished that the author had been less discursive in the treatment of his theme, that he had adhered more closely to the famous injunction, "Keep your eye on the object." But where the matter is so pleasantly readable, we must not demur excessively against these scholarly divagations. It is superfluous to add that this slight book, based upon a course of lectures, shows everywhere accurate scholarship and careful documentation, although we would have wished away a misprint which fastens the murder of Abner upon the innocent shoulders of Job (p. 28; repeated in the Index. J. L.

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